

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-22 (canceled).

23. (New) A multimedia information collection control apparatus, comprising:

a multimedia information collection unit configured to collect multimedia information from a plurality of kinds of input devices;

a multimedia correspondence memory configured to correspondingly store the multimedia information including an image and a speech;

an information recognition unit configured to recognize characters in the image, to extract a person's name from the recognition result of the characters, and to identify a speaker from the speech; and

a multimedia database configured to relationally store the multimedia information in correspondence with the identified speaker by using the person's name.

24. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the plurality of kinds of input devices include a camera to input the image, and a microphone to input the speech.

25. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said multimedia information collection unit includes a display to output the image, and an indicator to artificially specify a recognition area of the image on said display.

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26. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 25:

wherein said display presents an attribute selection window including a plurality of attribute items; and

wherein said information recognition unit prepares a plurality of knowledge dictionaries each corresponding to each of the plurality of attribute items.

27. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said indicator artificially selects one attribute item corresponding to the characters in the image from the plurality of attribute items of the attribute selection window on said display.

28. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said information recognition unit recognizes the characters in the image by using one of the plurality of knowledge dictionaries corresponding to the one attribute item.

29. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 28, wherein if the one attribute item is a card, said multimedia database stores the recognition result of the characters of the card as the speaker's personal data.

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30. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 29:

wherein said information recognition unit includes a speech recognition unit configured to recognize the speech in the multimedia information; and

wherein said multimedia database stores the recognition result of the speech in correspondence with the speaker's personal data.

31. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 29:

wherein said information recognition unit includes a face recognition unit configured to recognize a facial characteristic of a face area in the image; and

wherein said multimedia database stores the recognition result of the facial characteristic in correspondence with the speaker's personal data.

32. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 25:

wherein said indicator artificially specifies the recognition area of the image on said display by using a mark; and

wherein a shape of the mark corresponds to a kind of a recognition object.

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33. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said information recognition unit extracts an area specified by the mark from the image, recognizes an object in the area by using the recognition method for the kind of the recognition object corresponding to the shape of the mark.

34. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 33:

wherein said display presents a plurality of recognition area indication buttons each corresponding to different kind of the recognition object; and

wherein said indicator artificially points to the recognition area of the image on said display, and artificially selects a recognition area indication button corresponding to the kind of the recognition object in the recognition area.

35. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 34:

wherein said display presents the mark of the shape corresponding to the kind of the recognition object of the selected recognition area indication button on the recognition area; and

wherein said indicator artificially adjusts a size and a position of the shape of the mark to the recognition area on said display.

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36. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 35, wherein said information recognition unit selectively uses a plurality of recognition methods each corresponding to a different kind of the recognition object according to the selected recognition area indication button.

37. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said multimedia database correspondingly stores a record identification of each item of the multimedia information.

38. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 37:

wherein said multimedia information collection unit includes an information addition unit configured to additionally input information to said multimedia database; and

wherein said multimedia database additionally stores the input information for corresponding multimedia information.

39. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising a dialogue control unit configured to input a retrieval request from a user, to analyze the retrieval request, and to generate a retrieval key according to the analysis result.

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40. (New) The multimedia information collection control apparatus according to claim 39;

further comprising a retrieval control unit configured to retrieve the multimedia database by comparing the retrieval key with the record identification of each item of the multimedia information; and

wherein said multimedia information collection unit presents the retrieved information through said display.

41. (New) A method for controlling collection of multimedia information, comprising:

collecting multimedia information from a plurality of kinds of input devices; correspondingly storing the multimedia information including an image and a speech;

recognizing characters in the image;

extracting a person's name from the recognition result of the characters;

identifying a speaker from the speech; and

relationally storing the multimedia information in correspondence with the identified speaker by using the person's name.

42. (New) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable program code embodied in said product for causing a computer to control collection of multimedia information, said computer readable program code comprising:

a first program code to collect multimedia information from a plurality of kinds of input devices;

a second program code to correspondingly store the multimedia information including an image and a speech;

a third program code to recognize characters in the image;

a fourth program code to extract a person's name from the recognition result of the characters;

a fifth program code to identify a speaker from the speech; and

a sixth program code to relationally store the multimedia information in correspondence with the identified speaker by using the person's name.

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